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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO
10/721,676	11/26/2003	Michael J. McCoy	5828	5627
7590 07/27/2004			EXAMINER	
Marvin Jacobson			SHAW, ELIZABETH ANNE	
Jacobson and Johnson Suite 285			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
One West Water Street			3644	
St. Paul, MN	55107-2080		DATEMAN ED AGIOGIOA	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address Period for Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.		Application No.	Applicant(s)				
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1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 November 2003. 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final. 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. Disposition of Claims 4) Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are allowed. 6) Claim(s) 1 is/are rejected. 7) Claim(s) 2 is/are objected to. 8) Claim(s) 2 is/are objected to. 8) Claim(s) 3 is/are rejected. 7) Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/or election requirement. Application Papers 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner. 10) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d). 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152. Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All b) Some *O None of: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received. Altachment(s) 1) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) Paper Nofel/Mail Date 172803. 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-144a or PTO/SB/08) 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-144a or PTO/SB/08) 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-144a or PTO/SB/08) 4) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6) Onter	THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely. - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any						
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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bradford et al (PTO-1449-2 4,869,053) in view of Brown (4,996,316). Bradford et al show a quick release safety attachment for a stirrup having spring loaded rods 23 and annular bushings 20 for the rods 23 in a sleeve 12, the attachment resting in a stirrup strap 13 for releasably engaging the ends of the stirrup 10 from the ends of the rods 25 and a pair of lever arms 34 extending radially outward from the sleeve 12 having inner ends 36 engaging the rods 23 for controlling the disengagement of the rods 23 from the ends of the stirrups 10. Bradford et al does not show the use of an annular washer. Brown teaches a safety stirrup having a spring loaded rod 15 with a bushing 52 and a thin annular washer-like bearing 48 within the sleeve 30 adjacent the bushing 52, the end of the spring 46 pressing against the bearing 48. With respect to claim 1, to use the washer-like bearing of Brown with the stirrup of Bradford et al would have been obvious to one skilled in the art in order more allow the spring to work more consistently allowing for inconsistencies in the winding of the spring and other slight differences in mechanical fit within the sleeve.

Art Unit: 3644

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 2 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Included for further reference on safety stirrups are: Harms (1,087,762), Kitchingham, Jr. (3,157,977), Forest (4,209,962), Bezin (4,680,921) and Kuhn, Jr. (4,995,226).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Elizabeth A. Shaw whose telephone number is 703-308-1853. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 9:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael J. Carone can be reached on 703-306-4198. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

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you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Elizabeth A. Shaw

Examiner

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July 26, 2004

MICHAEL CAROLIC SUPERVISORY PITENT EXABILITY